### **Marine Life Protection Act Initiative**



# Update for the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group

Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
May 3, 2010 • Crescent City, California

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### **Subjects**

- North Coast Project Update
  - -Future meetings and products
  - -Submission deadline
- Highlights of Recent MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) Activities
- Actions Requested
  - Confirm importance of previous guidance and potential outcome if not followed
  - BRTF reflections on progress to date
  - Confirm role of staff and facilitators in structuring the process



### **North Coast Project**

#### **Round 2: Key Products and Dates**

- Draft NCRSG MPA proposals: May 20, 2010
- Evaluations of draft MPA Proposals: June 30
- Public workshops/open houses: July 6-8
- BRTF review of draft MPA proposals: July 21-22

#### **Round 3: Key Products and Dates**

- Final NCRSG MPA proposals: August 31
- Evaluations of final NCRSG MPA proposals: October 14
- BRTF develops recommendation: October 26-28

#### **Final Recommendation**

 BRTF recommendation with evaluations to the California Fish and Game Commission: December 15, 2010



### NCRSG March 23-24 Meeting

- Held in Crescent City
- Received External Proposed MPA Arrays Developed by Community Groups
- Received Evaluations of External MPA Arrays
  - MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team
  - California Department of Fish and Game
  - California Department of Parks and Recreation
  - MLPA Initiative staff
- Created Goals and Objectives Work Group



### **NCRSG April 20-21 Work Sessions**

- Held in Fort Bragg
- Two Work Groups Met (Ruby and Sapphire) to Begin Discussions
- Began Developing Round 2 Draft MPA Proposals
- New Ideas Shared to Address Interests Not Well-Represented in External Arrays (i.e., national parks, state parks, Petrolia area)
- Participation by Petrolia
- Created Special Closures Work Group





### **NCRSG Challenges**

- Varying Levels of Experience
  - Some NCRSG members very active in developing external MPA arrays and others have had little experience
- Meeting Science Guidelines
  - Difficult, especially in the northern bioregion
  - Stakeholder willingness to not meet science guidelines in order to balance other considerations
  - Meeting "preferred" guidelines will require difficult decisions
- Considering Tribal Gathering Activities
  - Allowing tribal activities and meeting science guidelines in proposed MPAs will be difficult
- Hesitation to Generate New Ideas
  - Community support for external arrays creates reluctance to propose new ideas or designs beyond external MPA arrays



### **Key Previous Guidance**

- Meet Science Guidelines
  - Emphasis on preferred size and spacing
  - MPAs with high or very high LOP serve as the backbone
- Strong Consideration to California Department of Fish and Game Feasibility Guidelines
  - Provide explanation for any deviations
- Cross-Interest Support
- Defined to include both consumptive and nonconsumptive interests





## Reflections and Next Steps (Day 2)

- Meeting Science Guidelines
- Consideration of Traditional Tribal Gathering
- Cross-Interest Support and Participation
- Staff and Facilitators' Role in Process Design
- Two Work Groups to Develop NCRSG's Draft MPA Proposals
- Potential MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Action if Guidance Not Adequately Met